

THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS
(Section of the Library Association)

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Announcements


IN the July issue it was reported that the L.A. had rescinded its previous decision to terminate the 1929 Agreement with the A.A.L., and that the present agreement had been renewed for a period of three years as from January 1938, unless terminated earlier by mutual consent. At the October meeting of the L.A. Council it is proposed to take steps to set up a committee, representative of all sections of the profession, to go into the whole question of the organization of our professional association, with a view to evolving a scheme which will have general approval and meet the needs, general and special, of the members. In the work of this new committee the representatives of the A.A.L. will participate wholeheartedly.

In another part of this issue members will note the reports of the Inaugural Meetings of three new Divisions, and preliminary details relating to the projected formation of a Greater London Division. At no time in the history of the Association has it been possible to record the formation of four Divisions in one year, and members may wonder why there should be such a sudden burst of enthusiasm this year. The reason is simple. Owing to the uncertainty regarding the future of the Section, a variety of development projects, including the formation of the three Divisions in Kent, Devon, and the East Midlands, had been deferred from time to time. Now that there is reasonable prospect of a few years' existence, it was felt that full opportunity should be given for the exploitation of the local enthusiasm which led to the requests for these new Divisions. It is confidently anticipated that these new units will take active part in the affairs of the Association, and provide for their members ample opportunity to participate more fully in the work of the A.A.L. and the L.A.

One result of the expansion of the Divisional organization has been to bring to a head the need for a revision of the Rules of the Section. The Vice-President has compiled a new set of Rules, which will be considered by the Council at its meeting in September. A Special General Meeting of members will probably be called early in October, at which the new constitution will be submitted for approval. Details of this meeting will appear in the October issue.

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The 15th September is the last day for receiving nominations for the L.A. Council elections in November. In the light of events of the past few months, these elections should hold a critical importance for our members, and when the candidates are announced, we would urge that their claims for support be carefully scrutinized. We understand that there will be several new candidates standing, and the return or rejection of these may well exercise a decisive influence upon the future of the L.A. It is therefore desirable that every voter should weigh the issues most carefully. We shall return to this subject in our next issue.



Now that the holiday season is coming to its end, many will be turning their thoughts to courses for the professional examinations. We should like to direct the attention of those in the London area to the facilities available for oral tuition.

The School of Librarianship at University College will again hold classes for candidates taking the Library Association examinations in May or December. In addition, there will be three advanced courses in palaeography, in cataloguing, and in modern printing. Further details may be obtained on application to the Director of the School (Mr. J. D. Cowley, M.A., F.L.A.), University College, Gower Street, W.C.1.

For those in East London we are pleased to be able to announce the arrangement of a series of part-time day courses, covering each part of the syllabus for the diploma of the Library Association. These classes will be held at the West Ham Municipal College, and their organization is due to the efforts of various Librarians in the neighbouring areas. We congratulate them on their accomplishment, and hope that the venture will receive the support it deserves from the students for whom it is designed. Full particulars should be obtained from the Principal, West Ham Municipal College, E.15.



For West London students, the Isleworth Polytechnic will again be conducting evening courses. Messrs. H. Groom, W. Lineham, T. E. Callander, and F. M. Gardner are the principal lecturers, and the courses will cover the whole of the syllabus. Full particulars may be obtained from The Principal, Isleworth Spring Grove Polytechnic, London Road, Isleworth.

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We are publishing, about 15th September, a valuable addition to the A.A.L. Series, Mr. W. Howard Phillips' Primer of Book Classification. In order to make it available to the widest possible range of students, Mr. Phillips has forgone any royalties; only because of this and Mr. Martin's gratuitous services in distribution, is it possible to publish at so cheap a price as 1s. 11d. post free. As a commercial proposition the book would certainly be priced at 10s. 6d., and still be very good value. The best thanks classification students can offer Mr. Phillips for the vast deal of work he has carried out in preparing this text-book is to buy copies for their personal use. They can have no better practical guide for the examination. Orders, accompanied by a remittance, should be sent to Mr. S. W. Martin, Carnegie Library, Herne Hill Road, London, S.E.24.

As most of our readers will know, Mudie's is closed. It is, perhaps, difficult for us, holding relatively safe jobs, to realize the hardship involved for those thus thrown out of employment at short notice. We are sure that many will want to help when they realize that these people, many of whom had worked for Mudie's for forty years, have no pension or provident fund whatever to look to for aid. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mudie's Staff Fund, Troy Court, High Street, Kensington, W.8.

Interrogative Mood

ERNEST WISKER

THE formation of yet another book club may well give us cause to consider whether some organized defence of independent quality in reading is not long overdue.

All book societies, book clubs, "books of the month" are designed either to sell simply more books, or to sell more books advocating or supporting a particular social or political attitude. Such activities are commercial activities with commercial standards, and to-day commercial standards tend to change the objective from quality of production to quantity of distribution, and increase in sales means practically always a decrease in quality of production.

This sort of thing has happened and is happening to-day in the field of reading, and nowhere is it more obvious than with the popular press, the unsinkable standards of which seem yet capable of sinking still farther in the mud.

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Cannot maintenance of standards in reading be held to be peculiarly the province of rate-supported libraries and librarians, whose standards should not and need not be dominated by commercial considerations? But is this the case—are we not all affected by book society propaganda—do we not follow unwillingly the fashions set by reviewers and advertisers? Do we not see the book society mind at work in our readers' suggestions? Some of us may do our best in our own districts to defend the cause of quality in reading, but can this ever be an effective counter to a national campaign for simply more reading? What hope has the puny voice of a solitary librarian against the powerful loud speakers of a national advertising campaign? The converted will listen; are the unconverted unimportant? Are we wise to hand them over on a plate to the travellers in trash? Does this not bring nearer the day when it will be difficult to justify the existence of rate-supported libraries?

What is required is a national campaign in reading standards, and the Library Association should be the body to run this. If the N.U.T. and the N.A.S. can lecture the Government of the day about the school-leaving age, why do we not thunder forth, at our annual conferences, about the nation's reading? There is a mountain of evidence of bad reading at which we can hurl defiance, even if we may be somewhat sketchy in suggesting what is to be done about it all. Still annual conferences are suitable occasions for vague voyages and speculations.

While the suggested campaign may be hazy in positive suggestions, could it not be definite in a negative direction?

Why not a campaign amongst local authorities, library committees, and librarians against the rate-supported provision of the penny press? Is it not an indictment of the public library movement that in many new areas the provision of penny papers is held to be an essential function of the library? Is there any difference, except cost, between the supply of penny papers from the rates and the supply of motor-cars and wireless sets from the same source?

We shall immediately conflict in this issue with vested interests. But as the national penny press give us no notices or bad notices now, this is not too important. We should certainly get publicity. We should also be met with the "liberty of the subject" bogy. Why should a ratepayer be told what he is to read by an official? Why shouldn't he read what he wants to read? The man who pays the piper should call the tune, and so on. Let us answer question with question. Why should the ratepayer be

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forced to send his children to school? Why should the ratepayer not have his infectious diseases without interference? Bad reading is a much greater danger to civilization than scarlet fever. The health and education services do not give the public what they want—they carry out a policy which experts have agreed is the best. It is because we are a timid and inferior profession that we allow any Tom, Dick, or Harry who is literate to rank himself as a judge of books on an equality with us.

Why not a campaign against the new book as such, against fashionable reading, and in favour of the good book? We should object to our hands being forced by book society choices, press campaigns, and the boosts of publishers, and refuse to be hurried in our book selection and acquisition. This is already done partially in many systems, but why is the matter not debated as general policy by the Library Association, and individual librarians advised, encouraged, and supported on these lines?

And, query unto query, is it not time to abandon our much-vaunted adoption of the shop or store technique? Must we for ever be middlemen, willing servants of a demand for reading and a supply of reading matter, playing no part in the manufacture of either side?



The Alphabetico-Classed Catalogue, and its Near Relations

J. CRANSHAW

*"I've never seen an ALPHA-CAT;
Oh, how I wish to see one!
From Cutter's def. to Quinn's fiat,
Brown-Sayers' pars., Sharp's caveat,
I hardly know where I am at—
I've never seen an ALPHA-CAT,
Won't someone let me see one?"*

THIS first stanza, from the "Lament of a Cheerful Cataloguer," has been called forth by many pointed remarks from a chorus of students, "that no one seems to know exactly what an Alphabetico-classed Catalogue really is like." My answer, "in that case *your* guess is as good as the Examiner's," does not arouse any great enthusiasm, for the

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students point out that, in the event of the Examiner being a little opinionated on this matter, they are sunk, ploughed, bunkered—what you will. And I must admit that a study of the definitions and brief descriptions available lend this lament some force.

Until lately I always imagined Cutter's definition of the A.-C. as beyond reproach, and in need of no further elaboration. But listening to students' complaints has upset this simple faith and demanded a modification of view, much in the same way as the simple logical directness of the natives upset Colenso's view of the Bible.

According to Cutter, the principal features of the A.-C. are: (1) its primary division of the field of knowledge into *broad* classes arranged in alphabetical order; (2) numerous alphabetic subject subdivisions under each broad class. By broad classes I have always understood Cutter to mean those classes corresponding in the main with the principal classes of any book classification.

This was certainly the method on which early catalogues of books were arranged, or if a collection was fairly extensive in any one of these main classes, it was not uncommon to raise certain subsections in this case to main class standard, *e.g.* if the library was rich in Science, the sections for Astronomy, Physics and Chemistry, Botany, and Zoology might be given full-class standard.

This was a perfectly natural result of the rule-of-thumb accessioning which generally prevailed in old libraries, where the books themselves were roughly arranged in broad classes, and new additions were simply added on at the end of each class or at any vacant number in the shelf sequence. The chief aim of the catalogue was to provide a key to this heterogeneous shelf arrangement. This it did by showing the books in each broad class alphabetically by author or by title, or by both. The result was a series of class sections in simple alphabetical order, but without subject subdivision. That is, in place of one dictionary author and title sequence, the catalogue had as many author and title sequences as there were classes. This served passably well when readers were leisured and comparatively few, and it fell in very closely with the "encyclopædist" or "omniscious smatterer" ideas which were then the vogue. But as these ideas faded with the growth of specialization, a demand for a clearer statement of subsections set in, leading on the one hand to the systematic Classified Catalogue and on the other to the Alphabetic-classed proper.

Those librarians who followed Gesner, Bacon, and Comte naturally felt

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that there must be some evolutionary order of subjects, hence the systematic classified catalogue. Others either could not see the cogency of this reasoning, or decided that so many cross-currents had been at work, that evolutionary order was a chimera, and the only safe method of subdivision was alphabetical once more—hence the A.-C.

We see the process at work in the catalogues of the Mechanics' Institutes, where collections of books were being made to suit the growing demand for specialized knowledge, particularly in science, industry, politics, and literature. We see it in the catalogues of the early municipal libraries, and in the sale catalogues of the great booksellers. All sensed the growing interest of patrons and buyers in special classes and groups, and naturally arranged their catalogues to this end, showing their wares alphabetically by authors and titles under broad class headings arranged in alphabetical order, and occasionally using subject subdivision under the class.

Whether we can call this first type Alphabetico-classed is a moot point. The nineteenth-century librarians appear to have called it a "Classed" catalogue without differentiating further. Thus Brown, in his *Library classification and cataloguing*, defines a Classed Catalogue as "one made by class entry, alphabetically or systematically." This seems to throw a little light on the question until we trace back the origin of Brown's definition to Cutter, where he links up the non-systematic class catalogue with the A.-C. when he says, "Classed catalogs are made by class entry, whether the classes so found are arranged logically as in the systematic kind, or alphabetically as in the Alphabetico-classed." So we come full circle, and it appears that even Cutter, whom J. D. Brown described as possessing a gift for coining suitable names for the various types of catalogues, was not at all clear on the principle of alphabetic subject subdivision as a necessary feature of the A.-C. And by the way, how did Brown's definition become so altered and meaningless as it is in the last edition of the *Manual of library economy*, where the A.-C. is defined as follows: "The alphabetico-classed catalogue is one in which the books are arranged under specific subjects, and the subject headings are arranged in alphabetical order"?

In the twentieth century the matter has been further confused by the general use of the term "Classed" catalogue in America for the systematic type, which we on this side call "Classified." There has recently been some talk of the need for clarifying terms in connexion with the revision of the A.-A. code—this is one of the terms which needs new definition.

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It is obvious that the "Classed" catalogue as defined by Cutter and Brown is correct in essentials—the term does cover two distinct types. It is equally obvious that Cutter thought of the A.-C. as generally having subject subdivisions under main classes (see rules, p. 17), and this idea was taken over by Brown, Hitchler, Howe, and other writers.

If, then, for the sake of clarity, we moderns restrict the term Alphabetico-classed to that type of catalogue which first arranges broad classes in alphabetical sequence, and secondly arranges specific books under subject subdivisions, made in alphabetical order under these broad classes, we must find a new name which clearly defines the simpler type without subject subdivision. As this type was the obvious precursor of the A.-C. proper, we might call it the simple A.-C., or if special attention is to be drawn to its prevailing author sequence under classes, the A.-C. Author Catalogue.

Returning to the A.-C. proper—this has existed in several varieties. Cutter distinguishes two methods of subdivision by subject, and a third type where author and title entries may be intercalated in the alphabetical sequence. It is not quite clear whether this latter means arranged in the major alphabetical sequence of the broad headings or in the secondary alphabetical sequences of the subject subdivisions. I presume it means the former, because I fancy it took the place of the author and title index to the whole of the series of classes which was usually placed at the end.

The two methods of subject subdivision were: (1) chiefly specific subentry under the broad class, *e.g.* ECONOMICS—Wages; and (2) chiefly subclass entry under broad class, with further subdivision by subject if close specificity was desired, *e.g.* ECONOMICS—Capital and Labour: Wages. The results, as Mark Twain would have said, "were interesting but tough." This practice meant the reversal of dictionary cataloguing principles, and *see* and *see also* references were made from the specific subject back to the general class. As a collection grew, it became exceedingly difficult to decide how far one could carry out this stepping-down process from the main class heading without getting into a tangle. It meant, too, that subjects which happened to belong to one or more main classes, such as ALPS, demanded such involved references as the following:

ALPS, *see* Section H—GEOLOGY—Physiography: Alps.

Section R—SPORTS AND PASTIMES—Mountaineering: Alps.

Section V—TRAVEL AND TOPOGRAPHY—Switzerland: Alps.

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And of course similar references from class H to R and V; from class R to H and V; and so on—a veritable forest of references which soon damped the ardour of the keenest reader. I doubt indeed whether the patience of Father Brown would have survived it.

It is probable that it damped the ardour of the Cataloguer also, and the theory of references was as much honoured in the breach as in the observance. Very likely more was left to the common sense of the reader than now, and it would not surprise me to find that some astute cataloguer did away with these cross-references by compiling a brief index of subjects at the end, giving references to pages. That was the obvious simple solution to this complicated reference system, and whatever else Victorian librarians lacked, they did not lack common sense.

Does the A.-C. exist to-day? The answer is somewhat like the line in the Breitman ballad: "Hans Breitman gif a barty; Where ish dat barty now?" Some authorities quote the *British Museum subject index*, some the early volumes of the *L.A. subject index to periodicals*. The latter may qualify for the years 1916-22, but only if we ignore two great objections—the broad class headings are a conglomeration of main classes in most cases, and they are not arranged in alphabetical order. They do, in fact, appear to be the twenty divisions of the Library of Congress Classifications merged into eight.

The claim for the *B.M. subject index* is much more questionable, in that it agrees neither with the first nor second parts of Cutter's definition. The subject headings adopted are in the main specific, although there are many class headings, like Capital and Labour, Chemistry, Education, and Insurance with many subheads, which in ordinary dictionary cataloguing would have separate places, e.g. Manual training, School management. It is also noticeable that these subheads are often in any order but alphabetical. In fact, there seem to be no definite rules of compilation—class entry and specific entry, alphabetical order, logical order, and broken order, and all in "one red burial blent." Separate breeds of dogs are given under Dog: *Separate breeds*; but separate varieties of flowers are under specific term, e.g. Lily, Rose, Tulip, etc. But the general tendency with each volume published is to develop more specific headings. In the last issue, for example, Cinematography was removed from Photography and given its own heading. Similarly, Nature Cure was removed from Therapeutics and Social Service from Social Science. It seems quite clear, therefore, that whatever else we may call the *B.M. subject index*, we cannot legitimately

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call it Alphanetic-classed. It is what its compilers call it, a Subject Index, which happens to prefer sometimes class entry, sometimes specific entry.

What examples have we, then? Cutter, in his *Rules* (1904 edition), mentions as an example of specific entry under general class the catalogue produced by Mr. Stephen B. Noyes. This, I think, was the Brooklyn Library Catalog, which Mr. R. R. Bowker in 1897, at the International Conference of Librarians, said "was used for many years throughout American libraries" as a bibliographical tool much in the same way as English librarians used Sonnenschein. As an example of the second type with subclass entry under broad class, with specific entry sometimes following, Cutter refers to the catalogue by Professor Ezra Abbot. I find, from the *Dictionary of American biography*, that Abbot made quite a stir with his Cambridge High School Catalog in 1853, and largely because of this obtained an appointment on the Boston Athenæum staff, and later in 1856 as Assistant Librarian of Harvard University. The catalogue Cutter refers to is, I take it, the Alphanetic-classed Catalog, which Mr. T. F. Currier mentions on page 7 of H. B. Van Hoesen's *Selective cataloguing* when he says, "for in the summer of that year [1915] our famous old alphanetic-classed catalog which had served us for more than half a century was suddenly changed over to dictionary form." (For further information on this catalogue, see two articles reprinted with notes by H. P. Sawyer, in *The Library and its contents*, pp. 307-21.)

There may be examples hidden away in the old Greenwood Library at Manchester, but on the English side the A.-C. appears to have been seldom attempted. I have discovered one possible candidate, and that only a sectional example from Leicester, covering "Science and its application." While not a complete A.-C., it can be said to be a class list compiled on A.-C. principles. The field of SCIENCE is divided into 17 broad headings, arranged in alphabetical order, and each of these headings is again divided alphabetically by subclasses. Section 2 (Agriculture), for example, is subdivided into General—Dairying—Forestry—Plant diseases—Veterinary science. Section 9 (Engineering) is subdivided into General—Aeronautics—Civil—Electrical—Metallurgy—Mining—Motor—Railways—Steam—Telegraphy—Wireless. Section 15 (Physics) into General—Electricity—Gases—Heat—Light—Liquids—Mechanics—Molecular physics—Sound. A few *see also* references are given as between section and section, *e.g.* Molecular physics, *see also* CHEMISTRY: *Physical chemistry*; but this principle is not carried out to

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any great extent. The compiler has adopted the better method of providing a specific subject index of some 800 references to pages. The point to be observed is, that if these class lists were continued for other main classes on these lines, they would together form an A.-C. catalogue.

There is, in addition, a singular hybrid from Stepney, where (ignoring lists for fiction and juvenile books) four class lists, covering together the whole of the Dewey Classes, were issued during the "twenties." Classes 1, 2, and 3 are in Section A; Classes 4, 5, 6, and 7 in Section B; Classes 0 and 8 in Section C; and Class 9 in Section D. But beyond this all resemblance to Dewey ceases. The subjects treated in each list are not arranged to follow the Dewey Schedules, but alphabetically under specific headings, thus producing a group of four alphabetical subject indexes.

But even if we consider these sectional catalogues as a unit, I doubt whether they could be squeezed within the definition of an A.-C. catalogue. True there are four broad groupings of classes, but they are not, and cannot possibly be, alphabetically arranged, as they are too conglomerate in character for general collective class names to be found for them. They are in many respects similar to the arrangement of the *L.A. subject index to periodicals*, large class groups telescoped into a convenient section for printing, each section having specific subject entries in alphabetical order, with references from section to section when a subject appears in more than one. Stepney and the L.A. have provided a new type—a type which will puzzle the cataloguers to find a suitable name for. I should not be at all surprised if they refuse to believe it and say, "There ain't no sich things," or dismiss the case humorously with those lines from Bret Harte:

*"If, of all things of tongue and pen,
The saddest are, 'It might have been,'
More sad are those we daily see,
'It is, but hadn't ought to be!'"*

So far as possible I have restricted my remarks to Library catalogues, but the student should not overlook the fact that he can still discover A.-C. forms occasionally in the sale catalogues of booksellers. Messrs. Foyle's technical and other catalogues, for instance, are often in A.-C. style.

As regards the near relatives of the A.-C. I have already described its progenitor so to speak in the A.-C. Author catalogue, that early form in which books were shown under main class headings, with authors and titles arranged alphabetically under each class. It was not the practice to

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provide a general author index, but occasionally this was done in the shortest possible form in the same way that J. M. Robertson did in his *Courses of study*, e.g. Carlyle, pp. 6, 15, 137, 142. This, the simplest type of classed catalogue, is still common amongst booksellers, but the best example in general publication is *Whitaker's cumulative book list*, which has fifty broad class headings, and a complete author and title index.

On the other hand, within the present century, and as a reaction to supposedly logical order of subjects within a class, there have been several attempts to work out another form of catalogue. This differs from the A.-C., in that its main classes follow the order to the classification scheme adopted (Dewey or other), but instead of continuing the order of the schedules, the subclasses are arranged in alphabetical order as in the A.-C. The *ASLIB book-list* (quarterly) is so arranged, and the A.L.A. annual list of best books entitled *Booklist books* follows this practice under the technical section, while keeping to the simpler practice for the other class headings. The *ASLIB book-list* has separate indexes of subjects and authors, very much abbreviated like the Robertson example above. The A.L.A. has a fairly full index of authors, subjects, and titles. Here is another problem in nomenclature for the experts.

As to the place of the A.-C. in library economy, it is now commonly assumed to be obsolete. But it is still useful and in some ways not inferior to other forms for class lists, bulletin work, select catalogues, reading lists, and the many small forms of publicity now common in large systems. Probably Professor Abbot's Cambridge High School Catalog made such a brave show, because the books in it (1,600 volumes) lent themselves to this kind of treatment. It was when the method was applied to a large collection, continually growing, that it was found to be particularly cumbersome and often unworkable, especially in connexion with a card catalogue. But providing we restrict ourselves to the printed page, the A.-C. still has possibilities, little, if any, inferior to the printed classified catalogue. The author and title index will be the same in both cases, the subject indexes will also be alike, except that page references are substituted in one for classification references in the other. By making the subject index full, as in the Classified Catalogue, all the awkward system of references for which the A.-C. stands condemned can be cut away from the body of the catalogue, leaving a clean page which differs only from the Classified Catalogue in that subjects are arranged alphabetically instead of systematically.

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Finally, the following table should help to make clear the points of likeness and difference :

CLASSED CATALOGUES		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Features</i>	<i>Examples</i>
Alphabetic-classed Author Catalogue.	Broad class headings only with author (and title) entries under each. Sometimes general author index also, but no specific subject index.	<i>Sheffield public library catalogue</i> , 1858-1875 <i>Whitaker's cumulative book list</i> , 1928 to date.
Alphabetic-classed Subject Catalogue.	Broad class heading, with (a) specific subject heads under each class in alphabetical order ; or (b) subclass heads alphabetically, followed by specific subdivisions also alphabetically. Author and title index. (c) With authors and titles intercalated in general alphabetical sequence.	<i>Brooklyn library catalog</i> , by Stephen B. Noyes. <i>Harvard University catalog</i> (c. 1860-1915), by Ezra Abbot. No example. ¹

¹ Since this article was written both Mr. H. A. Sharp and I have been searching for the perfect example of the A.-C. A copy of the "Brooklyn catalog" for 1881 has been found at Croydon, and Mr. Sharp has been good enough to forward the following description :

"The Brooklyn catalogue quite definitely falls into group C, the whole catalogue being arranged in one single alphabet of authors, class-group subjects, and necessary titles. For instance, right in the middle of the catalogue one gets about seventy-eight pages devoted to what is called a 'Fiction Class List.' In the case of subjects, under Government and Politics for instance, one gets the following thirty-six sub-headings :

"Aristocracy ; Ballot or Secret Voting ; Caucus ; Centralization and Localism ; Citizenship (Duties of) ; Civil Service Reform ; Colonies and colonization ; Comprehensive and Miscellaneous Treatises on Government and Political Ethics ; Constitutional Government ; Democracy ; Despotism ; Executive Power ; Federative Government ; Free Institutions ; Legislation ;

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<i>Name</i>	<i>Features</i>	<i>Examples</i>
Classed Alphabetical Subject Catalogue.	Broad classes in systematic order, with subclasses and specific heads in alphabetical order under each broad class. Subject and author indexes.	<i>ASLIB book-list</i> , 1935 to date.
Alphabetical Subject.	Chiefly specific subject headings, but with class headings, and subdivision in many cases.	<i>B.M. subject index.</i> <i>London Library subject index.</i>
Mixed Class Subject Catalogue.	Main classes and sections of some systematic classification, grouped to form large units, with specific subject headings under each group. Author index.	<i>Stepney class lists</i> , c. 1924-28. <i>L.A. subject index to periodicals</i> , 1916-22.

Suggestions for the more appropriate naming of these types will be welcome, and certainly more precise information about the American and other good examples. I am still searching for the most comprehensive type of A.-C. mentioned under (c), so I finish as I began, the Cheerful Cataloguer on the prowl:

*"Where can I find that Biblio-Zoo
 Wherein, the Alpha-Cat enshrined
 Breeds a b c's on A B C's
 With a B c's all intertwined;
 And running through and in and round
 More A b Cittens still are found—
 O hybrid progeny, lean and fat,
 Where, O where is that Alpha-Cat?"*

Legitimacy; Liberty; Monarchy; National Character and the Nation; Parties; Patriotism; Political Maxims; Political Morality; Public Opinion; Reform; Representation; Representative Government; Republics; Revolutions; Social Contract; Sovereignty; State; Statesmanship; Suffrage; Utilitarianism; Utopian and Imaginary Commonwealths."

I understand from a correspondent in Manchester that there is a copy of this or an earlier edition in the Greenwood Library. There is also a description of the earlier catalogue in the "Report on Public Libraries in U.S.A." issued in 1876 by the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Education).

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The Divisions

PROPOSED LONDON DIVISION

AN informal meeting of the London members of the Council was held recently to consider the proposal that a Division should be formed to serve the needs of Greater London, and it was decided to support the suggestion. Arrangements were made for the appointment of a Provisional Chairman and Honorary Secretary to act until an election of Officers and Committee.

It is proposed that the area to be covered by the Division should be the City and County of London, and the Counties of Essex, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, and Surrey, and that subdivisions be formed at convenient centres for the purposes of meetings.

A set of Rules was agreed to in principle, and it was decided that a meeting of the members within the proposed area should be held in October to consider and approve them in final form. Copies of the Rules will be available to members before the meeting. A formal requisition for the formation of the Division, signed by members of the Association in the proposed area, will be presented to the Council at its meeting in September, when the matter is to be further considered.

A. R. H.
D. E. C.

DEVON AND CORNWALL DIVISION

The Inaugural Meeting of the Devon and Cornwall Division was held at Plymouth Central Library on Wednesday, 7th July. Prior to the meeting the President of the A.A.L. (Mr. E. Sellick) and the members were entertained to tea by the staff of the Plymouth Public Library. At the meeting, the following libraries were well represented (numerically and otherwise): Cornwall County, Devon County, Exeter City, North Devon Athenæum (Barnstaple), Plymouth.

Mr. Sellick opened with a forceful, descriptive account of the functions and responsibilities of a Division, adding further to the value of his address by showing a thorough understanding of the difficulties which had to be faced, and overcome, if such a Division as that for Devon and Cornwall were to flourish. The discussion which followed framed general principles for the calling of meetings at the most convenient times and places, and was considerably facilitated, in that those present were at once aware of the

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difficulties and desirous of overcoming them. Later, a set of Draft Rules were thoroughly "overhauled," adapted, and made applicable to the wants of the Division in a manner which again made evident the interest of the meeting.

The following officers were appointed :

Chairman : Mr. C. Harris (Exeter).

Vice-Chairman : Miss D. Drake (North Devon Athenæum, Barnstaple).

Hon. Secretary-Treasurer : Mr. W. Best Harris (Plymouth).

Committee : Miss M. Singlez (Plymouth), Messrs. J. R. Bennetts (Cornwall County), R. Ley (Exeter), I. W. J. Snook (Devon County).

The committee was appointed so as to ensure that the maximum number of libraries were represented, and in furtherance of this principle, two vacancies were left open, in the hope that they would be filled by libraries not represented at the inaugural meeting.

One of the first tasks of the committee will be to draw up a programme of meetings for the future.

The next meeting of the Division will be held at Plymouth Central Library on Wednesday, 6th October.

KENT DIVISION

The Inaugural Meeting of the Kent Division was held in the Slater Lecture Hall of the Royal Museum and Public Library, Canterbury, on Wednesday, 30th June.

Mr. Burford and Miss Martin were appointed Scrutineers for the election of officers and committee. Mr. H. T. Mead, Librarian and Curator, then welcomed the Division to Canterbury, and Mr. W. A. Munford, Librarian of Dover, replied. Mr. R. Howarth, Librarian of Folkestone, as temporary Chairman of the Division, introduced the Vice-President of the A.A.L., who, after extending an official welcome to the new Division on behalf of the A.A.L., went on to urge the members not to confine their activities to holding meetings and listening to papers, but to do everything in their power to acquaint the general public with the largely unrealized facilities available for them in their public libraries. The Hon. Secretary of the A.A.L. spoke next, and, after referring to the period of uncertainty through which the Association had recently passed, read out the resolution of the Library Association Council whereby the existing agreement with the A.A.L. is to be continued.

A report of the temporary committee on the future programme of the

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Division was approved after discussion. The report included a proposal for monthly meetings to be held from September to May, alternating, as far as possible, between the east and west of the county.

On the declaration of the result of the election, the new Chairman, Mr. W. A. Munford, took up office. His first duty was to pay a tribute to the able work done by Miss I. B. Grant, of Folkestone, as Hon. Secretary of the Kent Library Guild, the forerunner of the Kent Division. The Draft Rules were then approved, with various amendments suggested by the A.A.L. Hon. Secretary. It was unanimously decided that the officers and committee appointed for 1937 should continue in office until 31st December, 1938.

The meeting then adjourned for tea, with Mr. Mead again as host. The new Chairman expressed the gratitude of the Division to Mr. Mead for his warm welcome and his hospitality. Finally, Mr. Mead and members of his staff conducted parties to various places of historic interest in the city.

Officers and Committee for 1937 and 1938

Chairman : Mr. W. A. Munford, B.Sc., F.L.A.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. R. Howarth, A.L.A.

Hon. Secretary-Treasurer : Mr. J. Dent, F.L.A.

Committee : General Members—Mr. J. E. V. Birch; Miss F. E. Brennan Cook, F.L.A.; Miss I. F. Jackson, F.L.A.; Miss A. Pickles, F.L.A.; Mr. A. H. Watkins, F.L.A. *Regional Members*—Mr. H. J. Routley (North-east), Miss M. E. Barty (South-east), Mr. P. Southall (Central), Miss M. D. Liggett (North-west), Mr. E. A. Wells (West).

EAST MIDLANDS DIVISION

The Inaugural Meeting of the East Midlands Division was held at Nottingham on Thursday, 15th July. Twenty-seven members were present to hear an address of guidance and encouragement by Mr. Revie (Hon. Sec. A.A.L.) and a message from the President, who was unable to be present. The Draft Rules of the Division were discussed, and with only slight alteration passed for submission to the temporary committee. The meeting agreed that the area of the Division should cover the counties of Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire (the inclusion of Northamptonshire to be decided later).

The following were elected to serve until the end of 1937 :

Hon. Secretary-Treasurer : Miss E. A. Harrison (Nottingham).

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Temporary Committee : Messrs. F. Baines (Newark), J. W. Hobbs (Derby P.L.), H. Jolliffe (Leicester), W. R. McClelland (Nottingham), L. C. Neal (Leicester),¹ Misses A. M. Nicholson (Derby County Library),¹ M. Northrop (Nottingham), E. Reason (Nottingham), M. Seeds (Nottingham), M. L. Smith (Lincoln), C. L. Wright (Leicester).

N.B.—Will all A.A.L. members of these four counties please note that they will automatically become members of the newly formed East Midlands Division.

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION

A meeting of the Division was held at Durham on 30th June, at which some sixty members were present. This was the first meeting organized by the Junior Committee, and it proved particularly successful. The afternoon was devoted to an inspection of the Castle, under the very capable guidance of the Rev. Professor C. E. Whiting, Professor of History at the Durham Colleges, and the University Library was shown to us by the Librarian, Mr. H. W. Acomb, M.A., who had very kindly arranged an exhibition of incunabula and contemporary bindings. Tea was taken by fifty-three members at the Dunelm Café, after which the Chairman (Miss W. C. Donkin) had the pleasurable duty of presenting, on behalf of the Division, a Gunn Sectional Bookcase to Mr. W. E. Hurford, the retiring Hon. Secretary.

Arrangements had been made for us to visit the Cathedral Library, where the Hon. Librarian and Chapter Clerk of the Cathedral, Mr. C. F. Battiscombe, O.B.E., with his enthusiasm and vast knowledge, made this a visit that will be long remembered; and to round off an eventful day, we were conducted through the Cathedral by Canon J. Bentley, who made us feel still more proud of that magnificent building.

To all who had made the day so enjoyable, suitable thanks were given by Miss M. S. Young, A.L.A., the Chairman of the Junior Committee, and Mr. C. Rodham, A.L.A., the Hon. Secretary. New officers appointed by the Junior Committee are as follows: *Chairman* : Mr. A. Donnelly (Durham University). *Hon. Secretary* : Mr. E. F. Ferry (Gateshead). *Hon. Treasurer* : Mr. A. King (Tynemouth).

¹ *Elected since the meeting.*

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New Members

CENTRAL.—Miss M. M. Campbell (Ayrshire County); Miss J. C. Charlier (Hendon); W. I. Dickinson (Whitehaven); R. W. Griffin (Southwark); P. J. Groom (Middlesex County, Hayes); Miss G. Hanlon (Whitehaven); W. R. Jarman (Cambridge County); W. Lenton (Deptford); T. R. Lewis (Llandudno); Miss H. M. Lister (Croydon); D. W. Prescott (Southwark); Miss D. F. O. Scragg (Coulsdon); R. J. Windley (Southall); E. A. Willatts (Kensington).

Devon and Cornwall.—J. R. Bennetts (Cornwall County); Miss C. A. Crimp (Plymouth); Miss D. Drake (Athenæum, Barnstaple); Miss I. L. Garland, Miss M. A. Pallett, Miss E. M. Pitcher, Miss A. M. Rundle (Plymouth).

East Midlands.—W. S. Bentley (Derby County); W. A. Land (Northants County); Miss M. A. Wilcock (Derby); P. C. Melville (Derby County); Miss M. C. Kennard (Leicester County); H. J. Riggs (Leicester County); Miss K. J. Read (Leicester).

Kent.—H. Alderton (Bromley); Miss E. J. Baldock (Kent County, Faversham); R. C. Benge (Tunbridge Wells); G. C. Bennett (Sevenoaks); A. C. Cook (Kent County, Tonbridge); C. W. H. Currie (Kent County, Broadstairs); P. Davies (Folkestone); A. J. Gritten (Margate); Miss I. F. Jackson (Kent County, Deal); Miss M. Jephcott (Folkestone); Miss J. E. Lewis (Dover); Miss N. McCririck (Kent County); Miss G. E. Millen (Folkestone); T. J. Millican (Kent County, Crayford); E. N. Moore (Gravesend); Miss L. Paulin (Kent County); Miss D. K. Pynn (Rochester); Miss P. Reynolds (Kent County, Faversham); Miss H. V. Richards (Kent County, Herne Bay); Miss K. M. Taylor (Tunbridge Wells); P. R. A. Wickham (Tunbridge Wells); G. Woodland (Margate).

Midland.—Miss C. Z. Anderson (Worcester County); Miss I. J. Beck (Coventry); Miss N. Bratton (Technical College, Stoke); Miss M. I. Shirt (Glossop); R. F. Smith, Miss I. M. Stayte (Birmingham).

North-east.—Miss E. Allason, Miss H. Andrews (Wallsend); W. G. Barrett (Durham County, Consett); Miss L. Bollam (Newcastle); K. M. Bramwell (Durham University); Miss M. L. Godfrey, Miss E. H. Heatley (Newcastle); Miss V. Hewitson, Miss M. Holmes, Miss M. A. Hopps (Darlington); W. G. Innerd, Miss M. M. Johnson, Miss C. R. Jones (Newcastle); Miss M. L. Lillie (Gateshead); R. S. Mallaburn (Newcastle); Miss G. [Nichols (Durham County, Consett); Miss K. E. O'Dowd

The Library Assistant

(Newcastle); Miss B. Parrish (Darlington); Miss M. Scott (Sunderland); J. Summers (Gateshead); A. Wallace (Newcastle); F. W. Wright (Gateshead).

North-west.—F. J. Clark (Liverpool); Miss I. Connoly (Salford); Miss E. Culshaw, Miss R. Derbyshire (Waterloo); Miss J. Gee (Wigan); L. Horn (Lancs. County, Brierfield); Miss M. E. Mills (Southport); L. J. Ruth (Birkenhead); F. Singleton (Wigan); H. Taylor (Bolton); Miss B. Winterbottom (Southport); Miss E. Robinson (Liverpool University).

South Wales.—Miss K. M. Ayers (Swansea).

Yorkshire.—Miss J. R. Bugler (Rotherham); Miss E. Dobson (Bradford); T. W. W. Hick (York); Miss E. Y. Holliday (Shipley); Miss M. L. Needham (Bradford); Miss M. I. Robinson, Miss M. M. Snowden, Miss M. Steel (Bradford).



Correspondence

REFERENCE LIBRARY,
LEEDS, I.

May, 1937.

THE EDITOR,
THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

DEAR SIR,—

I am surprised that even Mr. Martin could find in my letter any implication that I was, or am, in any way connected with the organization of correspondence courses. Perhaps, however, the mildness of my criticism was misleading, and I apologize on that account.

I should like to point out that, though I may not be concerned with the organization of courses, I do not dwell so far from the stream of life as to be entirely unacquainted with the methods of the Education Committee or to be unable to examine a large number of *completed* courses in any year.

There was a time when the appointment of teachers frequently depended on the opinion of someone on a committee or a council. Now the qualifications necessary are somewhat different.

Mr. Martin tells us how carefully the courses are edited, but I for one have never denied that. What I should like to know is whether the Section Editors make any organized effort to examine the papers which have been marked (?) and returned to students. What is the use of a lovely blue-print if the structure is just thrown together and is going to crash down twice a year—?

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I should also like to suggest that no sane person who has paid for a correspondence course will, on the eve of the examination, decide not to sit because the course was unsatisfactory. If Mr. Martin had questioned in detail those who took courses, sat the examination and failed, the answers might not have been so comforting to him, but they would certainly have been of more value.

I would recommend all students to follow Mr. Martin's advice, and make their complaints to the Committee, sending in where necessary the papers which they feel have not been dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

I am not suggesting in any way that the students are without sin. I have had sufficient experience of tutoring to realize otherwise. What I do suggest is that the A.A.L. Council should start to examine the courses from the students' end and the change of perspective may bring a change of opinion.

Yours faithfully,
E. HARGREAVES.

CITY LIBRARY,
EXETER.

11th June, 1937.

THE EDITOR,
THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

DEAR SIR,—

I see from the June issue of *THE ASSISTANT* that Mr. Reynolds, the tutor of one of the courses about which I complained in my previous letter, has chosen to write in defence of himself and to attack me on the grounds of base ingratitude for the many favours I received. May I make a few remarks in reply to the points which he mentions?

Mr. Reynolds states that any complaint about the courses should be addressed to the Education Committee, the implication being that such a subject should not be raised in *THE ASSISTANT*. If, however, one is expected to refrain from all open criticism, assistants who have had no experience of the correspondence courses organized by other bodies will gain the impression that all is well.

Surely a magazine which is primarily intended to meet the needs of library assistants should be a place where all topics, having a direct bearing on the profession, may be frankly discussed.

The two points relating to Mr. Reynolds' course in my previous letter he dismisses as not being significant in themselves. I reaffirm my belief in their significance. My first point was that my tutor remarked that he was

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not competent to say what parts of *The Organization of knowledge in libraries* by Bliss could best be read with profit. If these courses do not purport to give guidance with reading I submit that they are thereby shorn of much of their potential value.

My second criticism of the course was that my tutor misinterpreted one of the questions set in the Intermediate Examination in May 1936. The examiners in their report said that the failure of many candidates could be assigned to definite causes, *e.g.* the misinterpretation of questions, citing this particular question as having been misinterpreted by many candidates. For Mr. Reynolds these points have no significance.

Mr. Reynolds also objects to my grouping the impressions of more than one tutor into one sequence. If I had taken correspondence courses over a number of years and had then brought the minor shortcomings of each together into one sequence, such a method might, with reason, have been regarded as unfair. As I had taken the two courses consecutively and had found outstanding faults in each, I maintain that combined criticism was justified.

Mr. Reynolds would judge the efficiency of his courses by the examination record of his students. Therefore, as I passed after taking his course, he considers that I ought to be satisfied that his courses are admirable. Personally I do not see that the fact that I passed has necessarily any connexion with the course. If, however, we are content to adopt Mr. Reynolds' criterion when judging the courses generally, the fact that over 75 per cent. of the candidates for the Intermediate Examination in December last failed, would appear to furnish a particularly damning indictment.

I can see no reason why students should be kept from making criticism of the courses by feelings of heartfelt gratitude towards their tutors. The courses are well paid for, and students have a right to expect help with any difficulties which may occur. In the courses organized by such bodies as the University Correspondence College, Wolsey Hall, Bennett College, etc., it is the recognized thing for students to send to their tutors any difficulties encountered in the reading set.

I am convinced that a careful comparison of the courses set by the Library Assistants' Association with those organized by the leading correspondence colleges would show that there are many ways in which they could be improved.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. HUDDY.

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